

STAA Class Description 2023-2024

Course Title: Middle School Literature and Composition
Teacher: Elizabeth Skinner
Grades: 6th-8th
Meeting Day(s): Thursdays Time(s): 9:00-9:55am
Student minimum required for this course: 7 Maximum accepted 20

Course Description including any prerequisites or other requirements:

This class will build basic writing skills from proper sentence structure to essay organization as well as studying a wide range of age appropriate literature. Class time will be split between discussing literature and lectures on writing and/or grammar. Homework will include grammar practice problems as well as short writing assignments. Eight short papers ranging from a formal email to an argumentative five paragraph essay to a creative writing project will be due over the course of the year. Research will not be required for this level. Students will also read and discuss eight books from classic to historical fiction that demonstrate virtue. There will be an opportunity for students to read extra books then write short responses for extra credit. We will be using Voyages in English for grammar and writing practice.

Costs

- Total Tuition: \$300 for first student / \$140 per additional sibling
 - **Payment Option 1:** Full amount of \$300 to be paid on July 1st.
 - **Payment Option 2:** Split amount of \$150 as two payments due on July 1st and December 1st
- Venmo information: @meslatsky (Venmo is the preferred payment method)
- Checks made out to: Mary Elizabeth Skinner
and mailed to: 981 Ryecroft Rd, Pelham, AL 35124

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Student Responsibilities and Expectations

Students will be responsible for:

- using Google Docs and Google Classroom (I will demonstrate this on the first day of class in place of a literature discussion)
- checking the Google Classroom Monday-Wednesday to check off assignments
- taking a weekly reading comprehension quiz prior to Wednesday at 7 p.m. to prep them for class discussion on Thursday
- communicating with me through my email to ask questions
- writing a total of eight essays over the course of the year
- turning in assignments on time
- proofreading work prior to submission

While I will assign daily homework Monday-Wednesday, I will not penalize late work if all weekly work is completed by the Thursday class period for that week.

Example:

Grammar homework will be assigned Monday-Wednesday. However, if a student chooses to wait till Wednesday to do all grammar homework for the week, they're free to do so without penalties. It will just be more work for them on a given day. Likewise, if a student chooses to wait to do Monday's daily work till Tuesday but gets ahead on Wednesday's work, that is also acceptable.

However, if the student does not get all their daily homework done by class time on Thursday, they will be penalized unless prior arrangements have been worked out with me and the parent. Spelling and grammar will be graded on a sliding scale depending on grade and experience.

I would prefer students to turn in typed papers through Google Classroom. Physical papers can easily be lost (or taken by my toddler) so I'd prefer electronic copies to prevent this. However, I recognize that not all students will be able to type efficiently. If a student is unable to type, they may turn in their written papers by placing the paper in their folder with their weekly grammar homework. Written papers must be written as neatly as possible.

Grading Breakdown

- 1000 pts - Total
- 400 pts - 8 Short Essays (each worth 50 points)
- 400 pts - Literature (Quizzes, Class Discussion, Short Responses)
- 200 pts - Grammar (Weekly Homework)

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Textbooks and Supplies Required

- Voyages in English 7th Grade Student Edition (digital or physical)
- Folder
- Notebook paper
- Access to a Google Account for Google Classroom and Google Docs
- 8 literature books (tba)
- will announce by late July/early August

Teacher Biography

Elizabeth Skinner has her BA and MA in English, both from UAB. She has tutored writing for multiple years through UAB's Writing Center and has taught a semester of English 101 at UAB. After having her second baby, she decided to shift away from university work so she could focus on her family and pursue other teaching and writing interests. She's looking forward to teaching literature and writing at STAA this year.

Teacher Contact Information

Text: (205) 335-7328
Email: littleflowertutoring@gmail.com

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Additional Information

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